

ECOLOGY ACTIVITY

Background:

This is an interdisciplinary activity that can be done with science 1206 classes but it can be done, in part or whole, with any class, at any level, especially those studying ecology.

It combines science (ecology), art and poetry. The ecology activity can be done for either a terrestrial or marine ecosystem or both.

For the art and poetry sections students are asked to collect natural materials and produce a piece of "eco-art". They are then required to write a poem that relates to that piece. The art and poem can be presented in various ways. For example they can be combined into a poster, a book or website. The activity can be part of a field trip to a local natural area or simply done in the school yard.

Here are some examples from 2 books produced by science 1206 class from Bishops College in 2011-12 (The Love that Blooms) and 2014-15 (Mother Nature). (Apologies for the quality as these are pictures from the actual books).

Enjoy! Yvonne Dawe, president: Math Science Special Interest Council

The love that blooms Like the fall leaves
Inside our hearts, Love is hard and solid
Through life and death, Like a rock,
Not blown away Not captured by the wind.
by Gabrielle Molloy, Rebecca Davis, and Rebecca Casey



The Love that Blooms



Mother nature, frolics in the forest
luscious leaves and greenery
soft moss as a bed, face of goldenrod
Flower in hair, pink and precious
Bright eyes and wand in hand
Mother nature, spreading life
open arms to the sun
flowers blossom from her tender touch
heart of orchids and lilacs
Spring has come again

By Maddy Walsh, Meagan O'Leary, Ethan Skanes and
Kennedy Menchinton

Mother Nature

Science 1206 Ecology Lab

NAMES: _____

PART 1: ECOLOGY LAB: A TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM

Purpose:

1. To identify the abiotic components and the different types of organisms of a forest ecosystem.
2. To create a piece of “eco” art from the natural materials collected.

Procedure:

1. Record examples of abiotic components and organisms in forest.
2. Collect natural materials from the area and form into a piece of eco art. Take several pictures of the art.
3. Record any thoughts, feelings about the area and/or art in Table 2.

Results:

Table 1: List of abiotic components of the forest ecosystem, organisms observed there and type of organism (producer, herbivore, carnivore , omnivore)

Abiotic Components	Organism	Type of Organism

Analysis: Design a food chain (with 3 levels) based on the organisms observed



Table 2: Record of thoughts and/or feelings (to assist in writing a poem)

PART 2: ECOLOGY LAB: A MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Purpose:

1. To identify the abiotic components and the different types of organisms of a marine ecosystem.
2. To identify any invasive (alien, exotic) species present in the ecosystem.

Results:

Table 1: List of abiotic components of the marine ecosystem, organisms observed there and type of organism (producer, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore)

Abiotic Components	Organism	Type of Organism

Give 2 examples of invasive species that exist in the local marine environment.

Analysis: Design a food chain (with 3 levels) based on the organisms observed



Given 2 negative effects invasive species can have on an ecosystem:

(1) _____

(2) _____
